

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
FORT SMITH DIVISION

BRANDY SANDERS

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL NO. 2:19-cv-02095-MEF

ANDREW M. SAUL, Commissioner  
Social Security Administration<sup>1</sup>

DEFENDANT

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

Brandy Sanders (“Plaintiff”) brings this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) seeking judicial review of a decision of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (“Commissioner”) denying her application for supplemental security income (“SSI”). (ECF No. 2). This matter is presently before the undersigned by consent of the parties. (ECF No. 4).

The Commissioner filed an answer to Plaintiff’s action on September 30, 2019, asserting that the findings of the Commissioner were supported by substantial evidence and were conclusive. (ECF No. 10). On November 13, 2019, having changed positions, the Commissioner filed a motion requesting that Plaintiff’s case be remanded pursuant to “sentence four” of section 405(g) in order to conduct further administrative proceedings. (ECF Nos. 15, 16).

The exclusive methods by which a district court may remand a social security case to the Commissioner are set forth in “sentence four” and “sentence six” of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). A remand pursuant to “sentence six” is limited to two situations: where the Commissioner requests a remand before answering the complaint, or where the court orders the Commissioner to consider new, material evidence that was for good cause not presented before the agency. The Fourth sentence of the statute provides that “[t]he court shall have power to enter, upon the pleadings and transcript

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<sup>1</sup> Andrew Saul was confirmed by the Senate on June 4, 2019, replacing Nancy A. Berryhill as the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

of the record, a judgment affirming, modifying, or reversing the decision of the Commissioner of Social Security, with or without remanding the cause for a rehearing.” 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); *Shalala v. Schaefer*, 509 U.S. 292, 296 (1993).

Here, we find remand is appropriate to allow the Defendants to conduct further administrative proceedings regarding this matter. Therefore, the Commissioner’s Motion to Remand (ECF No. 15) is hereby **GRANTED** and the case remanded to the Commissioner for further administrative action pursuant to “sentence four” of section 405(g).

DATED this 19th day of November, 2019.

/s/ Mark E. Ford

HONORABLE MARK E. FORD  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE